

# Big Game Rules

## General Wildlife Laws

(For complete laws and rules, See Idaho laws and administrative code [http://www.state.id.us/laws\\_rules/](http://www.state.id.us/laws_rules/))

**All hunters must have a valid Idaho hunting license and the appropriate tags or permits in their possession while hunting.**

### Hunting Hours:

Big game animals may be hunted only from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

### Definition of Hunting:

Hunting means chasing, driving, flushing, attracting, pursuing, worrying, following or on the trail of, shooting at, stalking, or lying in wait for any wildlife whether or not such wildlife is then subsequently captured, killed, taken or wounded.

### Age Limit:

Only properly licensed youths 10 or older may hunt big game, except a 9-year old may buy a license to apply for a controlled hunt, but he or she must be 10 years old at the time of the hunt.

### Bag and Possession Limits:

A hunter may harvest only as many of a big game animal species as he or she has legal tags for in that year. Any animal harvested in a depredation hunt before a controlled hunt in the same unit for which the hunter holds a tag must be included under the limit and tagging rules of the controlled hunt tag. No person may take more than one animal per year during a controlled hunt season by using both a controlled hunt tag and a depredation tag.

### Mandatory Report Requirements:

All deer, elk and pronghorn hunters are required to complete a Mandatory Hunter Report for each tag they purchase. Hunters are required to submit a report by phone or internet within 10 days after harvest. Hunters who do not harvest, or did not hunt with their tag, are required to report within 10 days after the close of the hunting season.

**The best way to submit hunt information and the only way to get confirmation that the report was received is to report online. Go to: <http://idfg.idaho.gov>.**

To submit by phone to a live operator, 24 hours a day, seven days a week call toll free 1-877-268-9365 or 1-800-824-3729.

### Waste of Game

Hunters are required to remove and care for the edible meat of big game animals, except black bears, mountain lions and gray wolves. This includes the meat from hind quarters as far down as the hock, meat of the front quarters as far down as the knee and meat along the backbone which is the loin and tenderloin. It does not include meat of the head or neck, meat covering or between the ribs, internal organs, or meat on the bones after close trimming.

### Wounding and Retrieving

No person shall wound or kill any big game animal without making a reasonable effort to retrieve it and reduce it to possession. It is unlawful to enter private property that is posted, cultivated or in irrigated pasture without landowner permission to retrieve game.

### Electronic Calls

No electronic calls may be used to attract big game for the purpose of harvest, except such calls may be used to attract mountain lions, black bears and gray wolves in seasons where approved by Commission proclamation.

### It is Unlawful To:

- Hunt or take any wildlife without a valid hunting license and without required tag or permit in possession.
- Party hunt or help fill another person's tag.
- Shoot from or across the traveled portion, shoulders or embankments of any road maintained by any government entity.
- Hunt big game or game birds from or by the use of any motorized vehicle, except for holders of a valid handicapped person's Motor Vehicle Hunting Permit when vehicle is stopped and off public roadways. Use any motorized vehicle to molest, stir up, rally or drive any game animal or game bird.
- Operate or use as an aid to hunting a motor vehicle in violation of area, trail, or road restrictions.
- To use aircraft, including unmanned aircraft, to locate game or furbearing animals and communicate location to persons on the ground, or to use any helicopter to transport hunters, gear, or game except at established landing fields.
- Make use of any aircraft, including unmanned aircraft, to locate any big game animals for purpose of hunting those animals during the same calendar day those animals were located from the air.
- Fail to stop – with or without fish or wildlife – at any Fish and Game check station encountered, even if your hunting, fishing or trapping activity occurred outside of Idaho.
- Fail to produce wildlife for inspection upon request of a conservation officer or other person authorized to enforce Idaho Fish and Game rules.

- To hunt any animal or bird by aid of a spotlight, flashlight or artificial light of any kind; except unprotected or predatory animals on private land after obtaining written permission and on public lands after obtaining the required permit from an Idaho Fish and Game Regional office. It is lawful to hunt raccoons on public lands without a permit if such taking is not in violation of state, county, or city laws, ordinances, or regulations.
- Hunt big game with dogs except for black bears and mountain lions. See page 99 for details.
- Transfer any license, tag, or permit or use another's license, tag, or permit.
- Acquire more controlled hunt tags per species than allowed by Commission rule.
- Destroy or disturb traps, or remove any wildlife from traps belonging to others.
- Enter Idaho with livestock without a health certificate for transport and a brand inspection slip.
- Intentionally interfere with the lawful taking of wildlife or lawful predator control by another.
- Hunt any game animal by means of baiting with the exception of applicable rules for the black bear baiting permit. See pages 66 - 67. Bait is defined as any substance placed to attract game animals, except liquid scent for deer and elk.
- Take big game with the aid of radio telemetry; use of telemetry equipment with hounds or other sporting dogs is allowed.

#### Areas Closed to Big Game Hunting:

- All state parks are closed to hunting, **except** Farragut State Park, Farragut Wildlife Management Area, Billingsley Creek Unit of Thousand Springs State Park, Castle Rock State Park, and the City of Rocks National Reserve are open to hunting.
- Part of the Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve is closed to hunting. For information visit: <http://www.nps.gov/crmo/planyourvisit/upload/CRMO-Hunting.pdf>
- Nez Perce National Historical Park in Clearwater, Idaho and Nez Perce counties.
- Harriman State Park Wildlife Refuge.
- That portion of Ada County between State Highway 21, Warm Springs Avenue, and the Boise City limits.
- Yellowstone National Park in Fremont County.
- State designated wildlife preserves (Myrtle Creek, David Thompson, and Lewiston).
- State wildlife management areas, bird preserves, bird refuges, and bird sanctuaries that have been closed to hunting by legislative or Commission action.

- All or portions of national wildlife refuges, except as specified in federal regulations for individual refuges.
- All Snake River islands between Glenns Ferry bridge and Sailor Creek bridge in Elmore County.
- Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument in Twin Falls County, **except** that portion within an area 50 feet above the high water level of the Snake River. The upslope area is marked by yellow fiberglass markers, and hunting is permitted downslope to the river.
- Mountain lions and gray wolves may not be hunted or pursued within one-half mile of any active Idaho Fish and Game big game feeding site.
- Black bears and gray wolves may not be hunted or pursued within 200 yards of the perimeter of any designated dump ground or landfill.

#### Trespass Law

No person may enter private land to hunt fish or trap without permission if the land is:

- Cultivated
- **OR** Posted with "No Trespassing" or similar signage every 660 feet (1/8th mile) or at all reasonable access points,
- **OR** Posted with 100 square inches of high visibility orange paint every 660 feet or all reasonable access points,
- **OR** Posted with high visibility orange paint on the top 18 inches of a metal fence post every 660 feet or all reasonable access points,
- **OR** Posted with signs where a public road enters and leaves property through or along which the public has a right-of-way.

It is illegal for anyone to post public land that is not held under an exclusive control lease. Conviction of trespass on posted private property carries a mandatory one-year revocation of hunting/fishing/trapping licenses. Federal law prohibits unauthorized trespass on Indian-owned reservation lands for hunting, fishing, or trapping purposes.

#### Using Blinds on Public Lands - BLM

Hunting blinds on public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management must meet the following criteria:

1. Construction materials – Portable pop-up blinds are encouraged. No permanent placement of materials is allowed, and all materials must be removable. Wire mesh, which may be hazardous to wildlife or livestock, is not allowed. Damage to natural and cultural resources by actions such as digging, trenching or other surface disturbances is prohibited. Cutting live vegetation to build, screen or camouflage blinds is discouraged.
2. Labeling – The hunter's full name and ZIP code must be permanently attached, etched, engraved or painted on the blind in an obvious location.

3. Placement dates – Blinds may be placed no earlier than 10 days before the beginning of the hunting season for which the hunter has a valid tag, and must be removed within seven days of the close of that hunting season.
4. Right of use – Blinds may be used by hunters on a first-come, first-served basis. Placement of a blind on public land does not create an exclusive right of use. Locking blinds is not allowed. Please be respectful of other hunters' blinds.
5. Wildlife or livestock developments – Diverting water, tampering with or modifying rangeland developments, such as watering troughs, reservoirs, springs, fences, or related structures or water sources, is prohibited. Hunters may not harass livestock or impede their access to water sources.

For more information, please contact the nearest BLM office.

#### **Closed Seasons:**

There are no open seasons for caribou, bison (buffalo), grizzly bear or lynx. With the exception of bison, these are threatened or endangered species and are protected by state and federal laws. Please report any suspected sighting of lynx to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Boise at 208-378-5243.

#### **Furbearers:**

Bobcats, badgers and red foxes are classified as furbearers and may be hunted or trapped only during the furbearer season. No open season exists for lynx, wolverines or fishers. See Upland Game, Furbearer & Turkey Seasons and Rules.

#### **Possession and Sale of Wildlife Parts:**

Lawfully harvested wildlife parts – except edible meat from game animals – may be purchased, bartered or sold when accompanied by a written statement showing said wildlife was lawfully harvested. If black bear, mountain lion or gray wolf parts – excluding tanned or finished rugs or mounts – are sold or bartered, a signed written statement showing the taker's name, address, license and tag numbers, date and the location of kill must be provided to the buyer. Buyers must submit completed transaction statements to Idaho Fish and Game within 10 days of sale.

Wildlife parts legally harvested outside of Idaho may be possessed and sold in Idaho if such sale is not prohibited in Idaho or the state, province or country where harvested, or by federal law.

It is unlawful to possess any wildlife or parts that were killed, taken or obtained unlawfully.

#### **Possession and Sale of Wildlife Found Dead:**

Protected species of wildlife that have died of natural causes are considered property of the state and may not be possessed.

However, big game animal parts, such as hides, horns – except horns from bighorn sheep – bones, antlers and teeth, of deer, elk, moose, pronghorn, mountain goat, black bear, mountain lion and gray wolves that have died of natural causes, including legally salvaged road kill, may be recovered, possessed,

purchased, bartered, sold or transferred. If sold, black bear and mountain lion parts must be accompanied by documentation on how they were obtained.

Legally salvaged road kill may not be used as bait for hunting or trapping, except it may be used as bait for trapping gray wolves statewide. For more information and to complete the required form to legally-salvage road kill, visit <https://idfg.idaho.gov/species/roadkill> or call a Fish and Game office.

Edible meat from game animals taken from the wild may not be purchased, bartered or sold.

#### **Recovery, Possession and Sale of Bighorn Sheep Horns:**

Horns from bighorn sheep that have died of natural causes may be recovered and possessed. All bighorn sheep horns must be presented to Fish and Game for marking with a permanent pin within 30 days of recovery. It is unlawful to sell, barter or purchase bighorn sheep horns obtained under these circumstances, or to transfer ownership of recovered bighorn sheep horns without a permit from Idaho Fish and Game.

#### **Predatory and Unprotected Wildlife:**

Coyotes, skunks, weasels, jackrabbits, raccoons and starlings are classified by Idaho law as predatory. Eurasian collared-doves, English sparrows and feral pigeons are unprotected. Predatory and unprotected wildlife may be taken in any number year-round and at any time by holders of the appropriate valid Idaho hunting or trapping licenses, provided such taking is not in violation of state, county or city laws, ordinances, rules or regulations.

#### **Protected Nongame and Threatened or Endangered Species:**

No person shall take or possess wildlife species classified as Protected Nongame or Threatened or Endangered at any time or in any manner, except as provided in Sections 36-106(e)5 and 36-1107, Idaho Code, by Commission Regulation, or IDAPA 13.01.10.100.06b.

#### **Livestock Health Certificate Requirement:**

Anyone bringing livestock or hunting dogs into the state should call the Idaho Department of Agriculture, 208-332-8540, for health certificate requirements.

#### **Weed-Free Hay Requirement:**

On Bureau of Land Management public lands, national forest lands or Idaho Fish and Game wildlife management areas, anyone using pack animals or straw in their camp must only use weed-free certified hay, forage or straw to prevent the spread of noxious weeds.

To obtain an up-to-date list of local growers and vendors with noxious weed-free certified forage for sale, call the Department of Agriculture at 208-332-8592, or check: <http://www.idahoag.us/Categories/PlantsInsects/NoxiousWeeds/nwffs.php>. For more information on the Noxious Weed-Free Forage certification program visit: <http://www.idahoag.us/Categories/PlantsInsects/NoxiousWeeds/indexnoxweedmain.php>.

## Prescribed Burning:

Prescribed burning uses fire to restore forests and rangelands and improve conditions for wildlife. Prescribed fire may be planned in your hunting unit. Stay informed. Contact your local land management agencies.

## Wildlife Violator Compact

Many states including Idaho have entered into a “Wildlife Violator Compact.” If your hunting, fishing, or trapping license is revoked by any of the member states, all the remaining states may revoke the same license or privilege for the same time period. In addition, any nonresident who does not satisfy the requirements of an Idaho citation will have his or her hunting and fishing license revoked in their home state until those requirements are satisfied. For information on the Compact and a list of member states, go to <http://idfg.idaho.gov>.

## Boundary Waters Reciprocal Agreement

The Oregon-Idaho boundary water reciprocal agreement recognizes the legal right to fish, hunt or trap in the waters or on the islands of the Snake River where said river forms the boundary line between the state of Oregon and the state of Idaho by the holder of either a valid Oregon or Idaho license in accordance with the laws and rules of the respective state.

## Weapon Restrictions

### Rifle and Shotgun

In any hunt, including any-weapon seasons, it is unlawful to pursue or kill big game animals:

- By any means other than approved firearms, muzzleloaders and archery methods.
- With any electronic device attached to, or incorporated on, the firearm or scope; **except** scopes containing battery powered or tritium lighted reticles are allowed.
- With any firearm that, in combination with a scope, sling and/or any attachments, weighs more than 16 pounds.
- With any fully automatic firearm.
- With any shotgun using shot smaller than #00 buck.
- With any rimfire rifle, rimfire handgun, or muzzle-loading handgun, except for mountain lions or legally-trapped gray wolves.

### Short Range Weapons

In big game seasons restricted to short-range weapons, it is unlawful for hunters to use any weapon other than a muzzleloader, archery equipment, crossbow, a shotgun using slugs or shot of size #00 buck or larger, or a handgun using straight-walled cartridges not originally developed for rifles.

### Muzzleloader Caliber Requirements

In any hunt, including general any-weapon seasons and short-range hunts, it is unlawful to pursue or kill big game animals with any muzzleloading rifle or musket that is less than .45 caliber for deer, pronghorn, mountain lion or gray wolf; or is less than .50 caliber for elk, moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goat or black bear.

## Muzzleloader Only Season

Any person hunting in a muzzleloader only season, including controlled hunts, must have in their possession a license with a muzzleloader permit validation. During a muzzleloader-only season, it is illegal to pursue or kill a big game animal with any firearm, muzzleloading pistol, or weapon other than a muzzleloading rifle or musket. In addition, the muzzleloading rifle or musket must be:

- Capable of being loaded only from the muzzle.
- Equipped with only open or peep sights. Scopes and any electronics are prohibited. **Except** hunters with a visual disability may apply for a permit to use nonmagnifying scopes. (Applications are available at Fish and Game offices.)
- Loaded only with loose black powder, loose Pyrodex, or other loose synthetic black powder. Pelletized powders are prohibited.
- Equipped with a single or double-barrel.
- Loaded with a projectile that is within .010 inch of the bore diameter. Sabots are prohibited.
- Loaded with a patched round ball or conical non-jacketed projectile comprised wholly of lead or lead alloy.
- Equipped only with a flint, percussion cap or musket cap. 209 primers are prohibited.
- Equipped with an ignition system in which any portion of the cap is exposed or visible when the weapon is cocked and ready to fire.

For additional information about muzzleloader equipment visit <http://idfg.idaho.gov/public/hunt/rules/?getPage=299>

## Archery Equipment

In any hunt, including general any-weapon seasons and short-range hunts, it is unlawful to pursue or kill big game animals:

- With arrows or bolts having broadheads measuring less than 7/8 inch in width and having a primary cutting edge less than 0.015 inch thick.
- With any bow having a peak draw weight of less than 40 pounds up to or at a draw of 28 inches or any crossbow having a peak draw weight of less than 150 pounds.
- With an arrow or bolt wherein the broadhead does not precede shaft and nock.
- With any chemicals or explosives attached to the arrow or bolt.
- With arrows or bolts having expanding broadheads.
- With arrows or bolts having barbed broadheads, which is a broadhead with any portion of which forms an angle less than 90 degrees with the shaft or ferrule.
- With any electronic or tritium-powered device attached to an arrow, bolt or bow. **Except** disabled archery permit holders may use a nonmagnifying sight with battery powered or tritium lighted reticles.
- With any bow capable of shooting more than one arrow at a time.
- With any compound bow set at more than 85 percent let-off.



- With an arrow or bolt, and broadhead with a combined total weight of less than 300 grains.
- With an arrow less than 24 inches from broadhead to nock inclusive.
- With a bolt (crossbow) less than 12 inches from broadhead to nock inclusive.

### Archery Only Season

Any person hunting in an archery only season, including controlled hunts, must have in their possession their license with archery permit validation. During an archery-only season, it is illegal for hunters to use any firearm or implement other than a longbow, compound bow or recurve bow in compliance with general archery equipment requirements, or:

- Any bow equipped with magnifying sights.
- Any device that holds a bow at partial or full draw. **Except** hunters possessing a disabled archery permit may use a device that holds a bow at partial or full draw. Applications for the use of devices holding a bow at partial or full draw by disabled hunters are available at Fish and Game offices.
- Any crossbow. **Except** disabled hunters possessing a permit may use a crossbow. Applications for the use of crossbows by disabled hunters are available at Fish and Game offices.

## Hound Hunting Rules

### Dogs

Dogs may be used to pursue black bears or mountain lions in either an open take season where use of dogs is allowed, or during a dog training season open for black bear or mountain lion. Pursuit is allowed regardless of whether a black bear or mountain lion already has been harvested. During a dog training season, black bears or mountain lions may be pursued and treed, but may not be captured, killed, or possessed. Dogs may not be used to take or pursue any other big game species.

Any dog found running at large and actively tracking, pursuing, harassing, attacking or killing any big game animal, **except** black bear and mountain lion, may be destroyed without criminal or civil liability by the director of Fish and Game, any peace officer, or other persons authorized to enforce Idaho wildlife laws.

The use of one blood-trailing dog controlled by leash during lawful hunting hours and within 72 hours of hitting a big game animal is allowed to track wounded animals and aid in recovery. A hound hunter permit is not required.

### Hound Hunter Permit

The following persons must have a valid Hound Hunter Permit in possession when dogs are being used to hunt or pursue black bears or mountain lions:

- Anyone who owns pursuit dogs.
- Anyone having control of dogs owned by another person.
- Anyone that harvests a black bear, mountain lion, bobcat, raccoon, or fox with the use of dogs, except

clients of licensed outfitters, are not required to have a hound hunter permit.

Anyone who owns or controls pursuit dogs must purchase a black bear or a mountain lion tag to pursue the respective species. A tag which has been filled is valid for pursuit seasons for that species.

Please consult the current Upland Game, Furbearer and Turkey Seasons and Rules brochure for use of dogs while pursuing bobcats, raccoons and foxes.

**Resident hound hunter permits** may be obtained from any license vendor. There is no limit on the number of resident hound hunter permits.

### Limitation on hound hunter permits for nonresidents:

Nonresident hound hunter permit applications must be received at the Fish and Game headquarter's office by December 1. Permits for the following year are issued in December. Applications are available on the Fish and Game website. No more than 70 nonresident hound hunter permits will be issued to nonresident hunters who are not licensed outfitters (see exceptions for Lolo, Middle Fork and Selway zones below). Nonresident outfitters and guides who have obtained a hound hunter permit shall not use the permit for personal hunting. Sales of nonresident hound hunter permits to the following persons shall not be counted in the quota for nonresidents:

- **Persons who have moved into Idaho** and by notarized affidavit show proof of their intent to become bona fide Idaho residents but are not yet qualified to buy a resident license.
- **Lolo Zone:** Persons who hound hunt solely in game management units within the Lolo elk zone (Units 10 and 12).
- **Middle Fork Zone:** Persons who hound hunt solely in game management units within the Middle Fork elk zone (Units 20A, 26, and 27).
- **Selway Zone:** Persons who hound hunt solely within the Selway Zone (Units 16A, 17, 19, and 20). A total of 40 permits will be issued for Units 16A, 19, 20, and all of Unit 17, excluding Hunt Area 17-1 which will have 6 permits. Hunt Area 17-1 is defined as that portion of Unit 17 south of the following boundary: Beginning at the junction of the Unit 17 boundary and Forest Service Trail 24, then west along Forest Service Trail 24 to the Selway River, then north along the Selway River to Forest Service Trail 40, then southwest along Forest Service Trail 40 to Forest Service Trail 3, then west along Forest Service Trail 3 to the Unit 17 boundary.

### Hound Hunter Alert:

The Selway and Middle Fork zones, and a portion of the Lolo zone, are wilderness areas. Vehicle access is restricted and rugged terrain can make pursuit extremely difficult. Contact the local Forest Service office for maps showing trails and access. Wolves may be present in any game management unit.

## Tagging and Transporting Game

### How to Properly Validate a Big Game Tag.

Hunters must completely remove two notches — — — — — indicating month and day of kill.

**Note:** Immediately after the kill, the triangles denoting the month and day must be cleanly and completely removed. Tearing, slicing or punching the tag is not legal.



### Proper Location of Tag

Attach to the largest portion of the carcass.

Any license, tag or permit that is defaced or altered is invalid from the date and time of issue. It is unlawful to use or attempt to use any license that has been defaced or altered.

### Transportation Issues

Any person who transports any wildlife for another person or receives any wildlife for cleaning, processing, as a gift, or for storage must have a written proxy statement signed by the person who killed the animal specifying the numbers and kinds of wildlife; date taken; hunter's name and address; and license, tag and permit numbers. The proxy form is provided below for convenience.

### Preserving Evidence of Sex:

#### Deer, elk and pronghorn:

If the head or antlers are removed, evidence of sex in the form of testicles, penis, scrotum, udder or vulva must remain naturally attached to the carcass or parts thereof on all harvested big game animals until they reach the final place of storage or personal consumption, or a commercial meat processing facility.

Antlers or horns removed from the head must be left naturally attached to the skull plate where point or brow-tine restrictions apply, and they must accompany the carcass or parts thereof.

Black bears, mountain lions and gray wolves: External evidence of sex in the form of testicles, penis, scrotum or vulva must be left naturally attached to the hide until the mandatory check requirement has been satisfied.

**In seasons restricted to mule deer only or white-tailed deer only,** if the head is removed, the fully-haired tail must be left naturally attached to the carcass until it reaches the final place of storage or personal consumption, or a commercial meat processing facility.

## Tagging and Transporting Game

### Proper Tagging and Transportation of Animals and Meat

Immediately after any deer, elk, pronghorn, black bear, mountain lion, or gray wolf has been killed, the hunter harvesting the animal must comply with the following regulations regarding the proper tagging, transportation and shipment of a carcass:

The appropriate big game tag must be validated and securely attached to the animal **immediately after the kill**. The validated tag must remain attached to the carcass until the meat is processed and reaches the place of final storage or personal consumption.

### PROXY STATEMENT (To transport wildlife taken by another person)

Species (Circle)	Sex	Description (e.g.: antler points, wrapped, hind quarter, etc.)	Unit/ Hunt Area	Kill Location	Days Hunted	Date Killed
Bighorn Sheep						
Black Bear						
Elk						
Gray Wolf						
Moose						
Mtn Lion						
Ntn Goat						
Mule Deer						
Pronghorn						
Whitetail						
Other						

### Other Game:

Species \_\_\_\_\_ How many \_\_\_\_\_  
 Species \_\_\_\_\_ How many \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hunter's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 License No. \_\_\_\_\_ Tag No. \_\_\_\_\_ Permit No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Guided (circle) YES NO Outfitter Name \_\_\_\_\_ Method (circle) STILL/STALK INCIDENTAL PRED. CALL  
 Weapon (circle) RIFLE MUZZELOADER SHOTGUN HANDGUN OTHER \_\_\_\_\_ BAIT HOUNDS OTHER \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of person transporting \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## What You Need to Know

Motor vehicles, from pickups and SUVs to motorcycles and ATVs, have changed hunting and some of those changes have created challenges for hunters, land managers and wildlife. Consider the following:

- Roads that are open to motor vehicles increase access into big game habitat, and, as a result, the number of hunters increases. Generally, the number of hunters in an area is directly related to the number of roads.
- The combination of more hunters and their increased mobility in roaded areas increases the vulnerability of deer and elk to harvest. Deer and elk in a heavily roaded area are more likely to be killed during the hunting season, and for that reason these areas have fewer old bulls or bucks. It also means that hunting seasons have to be shorter to prevent over harvest.
- Research shows that slow moving vehicles on primitive roads and trails are more disturbing to elk than fast moving vehicles on highways. Slow moving vehicles traveling cross-country have the same effect. Deer and elk often flee from the sound of motor vehicles and may leave the area.
- Cross-country travel with motor vehicles can create a network of new travel ways that cause erosion, spread noxious weeds, and damage fish and wildlife habitats. Much of this cross-country travel occurs during the hunting season. To reduce these impacts, Idaho's land and wildlife managers ask all hunters using motorized vehicles to stay on roads and trails and use designated routes where they are established. Do not travel cross-country with a motor vehicle.

## Look for Designated Routes on Public Lands

- The U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management have already established designated routes in several areas of Idaho. Please pay attention to the travel system in the areas you hunt.

For more information about travel management on Idaho's Federal lands, contact these offices or websites:

- U.S. Forest Service, 208-373-4007, or [www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us)
- Bureau of Land Management, 1-888-246-7523 or 208-373-4000, or [www.id.blm.gov](http://www.id.blm.gov)
- Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation online mapping application: <http://trails.idaho.gov>

Access management helps wildlife and hunters. Please observe established road closures and access restrictions. Report road closure violations by calling 1-800-632-5999, or any Idaho Fish and Game, BLM or U.S. Forest Service office.

## Motor Vehicle Use

Wisely managing roads, trails and motor vehicles will:

- Yield more old bucks and bulls.
- Permit more hunting opportunity.
- Allow longer seasons.
- Decrease erosion.
- Reduce conflicts.
- Reduce damage to habitat and the spread of noxious weeds.

**Best of all, it will make hunting better.**

## Remember!

- Observe road closures and access restrictions.
- Say no to cross-country travel.
- Stay on roads and trails open to motorized travel.
- Use designated routes where they're established.
- Follow Idaho's Motorized Hunting Rule.

## Motorized Hunting Rule

To resolve many hunters' concerns about off-road travel, the Fish and Game Commission adopted restrictions on motor vehicle use while hunting big game animals, including moose, bighorn sheep and mountain goats in designated units. The rule only applies from August 30 through December 31. The rule no longer applies to hunting of upland game birds or upland game animals.

## Motorized Hunting Restrictions

The use of motorized vehicles by hunters as an aid to hunting big game animals is restricted in certain areas. This use restriction is in addition to all federal, state and local laws, rules, regulations, ordinances and orders; including, but not limited to, any motorized vehicle licensing, registration, and permitting requirements and traffic laws. Hunters must comply with all motorized vehicle limits or prohibitions instituted by the landowner or land manager. Also, this use restriction rule is not an exception from, and is in addition to, the statutory prohibition against hunting from or by the use of any motorized vehicle set forth in Idaho Code Section 36-1101(b)(1).

## Use Restriction

In designated units from August 30 through December 31, big game hunters may use motorized vehicles only on established roadways which are open to motorized traffic and capable of being traveled by full-sized automobiles. **Exceptions.** This use restriction rule shall not apply to the following permissible motorized vehicle uses by hunters off of an established roadway:

- Holders of a valid Handicapped Person's Motor Vehicle Hunting Permit may use a motorized vehicle as allowed by the land owner or manager.
- Hunters may use a motorized vehicle to retrieve downed game if such travel is allowed by the land owner or manager.
- Hunters may use a motorized vehicle to pack camping equipment in or out if such travel is allowed by the land owner or manager, but hunters may not hunt while packing camping equipment.
- Private landowners, their authorized agents and persons with written landowner permission may use a motorized vehicle on their private land, but they may not hunt from or by the use of any motorized vehicle.

## Restricted Units

The motorized hunting use restrictions applies to units:

**29, 30, 30A, 32, 32A, 36A, 37, 37A, 45, 47, 49, 50, 51, 52, 52A, 53, 56, 58, 59, 59A, 66, 66A, 69, 70, 72, 73, 75, 76, 77, and 78.**

## Defined Terms

- A full-sized automobile is any motorized vehicle with a gross weight in excess of 1,500 pounds.
- An established roadway is defined as any road that is established, built, maintained, approved or designated by any government entity or private landowner for the purpose of travel by full-sized automobiles. An established roadway shows evidence of repeated use by full-sized automobiles, and may include a traveled way of natural earth with depressed wheel tracks and little or no vegetation in the tracks.
- A hunter is a person engaged in the activity of hunting as defined in Idaho Code Section 36-202(j). "Hunting" means chasing, driving, flushing, attracting, pursuing, worrying, following after or on the trail of, shooting at, stalking, or lying in wait for, any wildlife whether or not such wildlife is then or subsequently captured, killed, taken, or wounded. Such term does not include stalking, attracting, searching for, or lying in wait for, any wildlife by an unarmed person solely for the purpose of watching wildlife or taking pictures thereof.

## Owyhee Wilderness

The Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009 designated 517,000 acres of public lands in Owyhee County in southwestern Idaho as Wilderness. Please be aware of the wilderness boundaries and regulations. For more information See: [http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/prog/blm\\_special\\_areas/wilderness.html](http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/prog/blm_special_areas/wilderness.html).

## Most Common Hunting Violations:

- Possession and transportation of big game without evidence of sex – evidence of sex must be naturally attached to the carcass or largest portion of meat if boned. See page 100.
- Possession and transportation without proxy statement – a proxy statement is required to transport wildlife taken by another person. See page 100.
- Failure to properly validate and attach tag to big game. Tag must be validated and attached to the carcass immediately following a kill. See page 100.
- Failure to stop and report at a check station. All hunters, with or without game, must stop and report at each check station they encounter during their travel to and from their designated hunting location.
- Shooting from or across public highway right of way. This is a public safety issue for both the shooter and people traveling on the highway. See page 104.
- Hunting or taking game in a closed season. It is the hunter's responsibility to know season opening and closing dates, what species and sex may be taken and hunt boundaries.
- Wrong Class License. A hunter or angler is required to purchase and possess the correct class of license. See page 113.
- Transfer of license or tag to another. Party hunting or killing an animal for somebody else to put their tag on is illegal.



# KNOW BEFORE YOU GO: MOTORIZED HUNTING RULE

## What changes were made to the Motorized Vehicle Use Rule?

- The name changed to Motorized Hunting Rule to make it clear that this rule applies to hunters using motorized vehicles as an aid to hunting. The rule is now specific only to hunting of big game animals, including moose, bighorn sheep and mountain goat, in designated units, and only applies from August 30 through December 31.
- Between these dates and in the designated units, specific to all big game hunting, hunters may use motorized vehicles only on established roadways that are open to motorized traffic and capable of being traveled by full-sized automobiles.
- The rule no longer applies to hunting of upland game birds or upland game animals.

## What is an “established roadway?”

- An established roadway is any road that is established, built, maintained, approved or designated by any governmental entity or private landowner for the purpose of travel by full-sized automobiles. An established roadway shows evidence of repeated use by full-sized automobiles, and may include a traveled way of natural earth with depressed wheel tracks and little or no vegetation in the wheel tracks.

## Where can I find out which are established roads open to use by full-sized vehicles and which are trails on national forest or BLM land?

- For questions about the status of a road or trail in the area you plan to hunt, please contact the appropriate land management agency. National Forest Motor Vehicle Use Maps and BLM Travel Maps list road, trail and other allowable uses. Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation’s Statewide Online Map, available at <http://www.trails.idaho.gov/>, also lists what type of motorized use is allowed on Forest Service and BLM lands statewide, as well as local land management agency contact information.

## Does the new rule apply to all hunting statewide?

- No. The rule now applies only to hunting of big game animals, including moose, bighorn sheep and mountain goat, in designated units from August 30 through December 31. The rule does not apply to upland game animals or birds in hunts within designated units.

## As a hunter, can I use a motorized vehicle on USFS or BLM designated trails in Big Game Units covered by the motorized hunting rule?

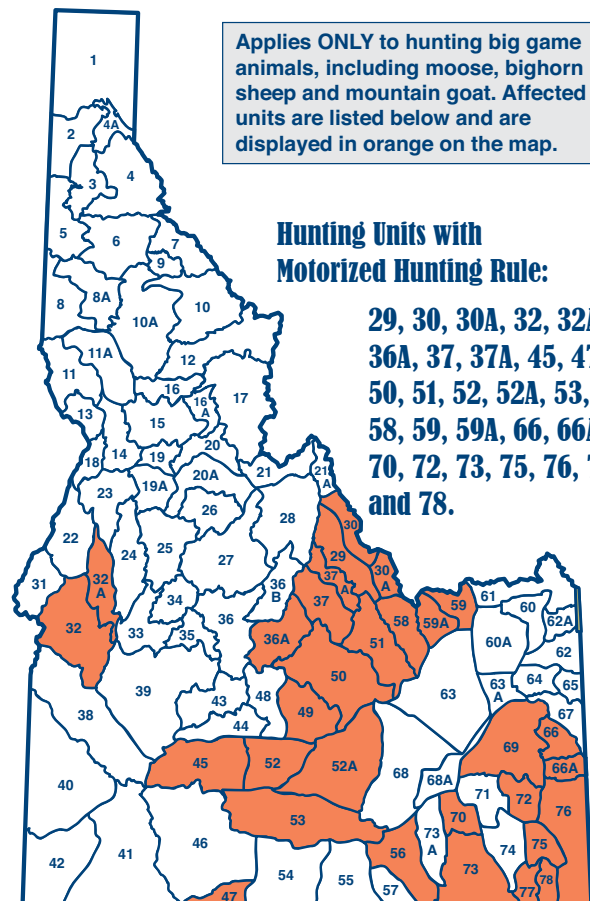
- Only if the use is permissible in the exceptions in the motorized hunting rule. For example, if motorized travel is allowed by the USFS or BLM, you may use a motorized vehicle to retrieve downed game or pack in or out your camping equipment. However, you may not hunt while packing camping equipment. It’s important that you know what specific type of motorized use is allowed for the area you are hunting.
- Hunt Units with Motorized Hunting Rule: See map below.

## What can I do to stay out of trouble or to avoid conflicts with other hunters?

- When in doubt, stay on the road. Know and follow the vehicle use restrictions for the area you are hunting, have applicable maps, and review tips on the Stay on Trails website at [stayontrails.com](http://stayontrails.com)

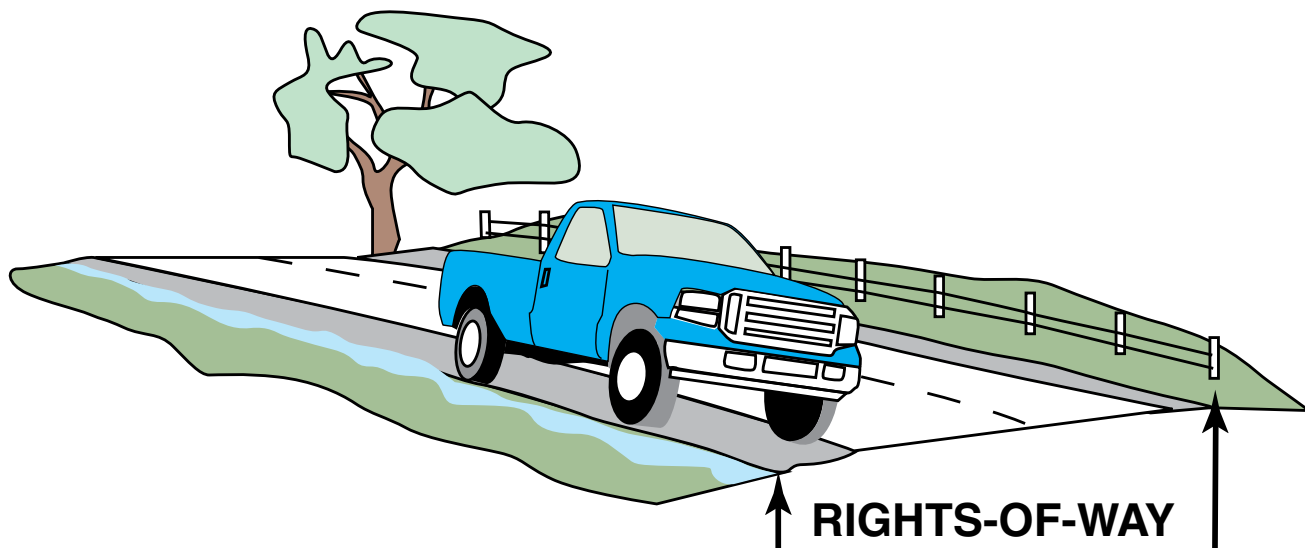
**Dates:** August 30 - December 31

**Applies ONLY to hunting big game animals, including moose, bighorn sheep and mountain goat. Affected units are listed below and are displayed in orange on the map.**

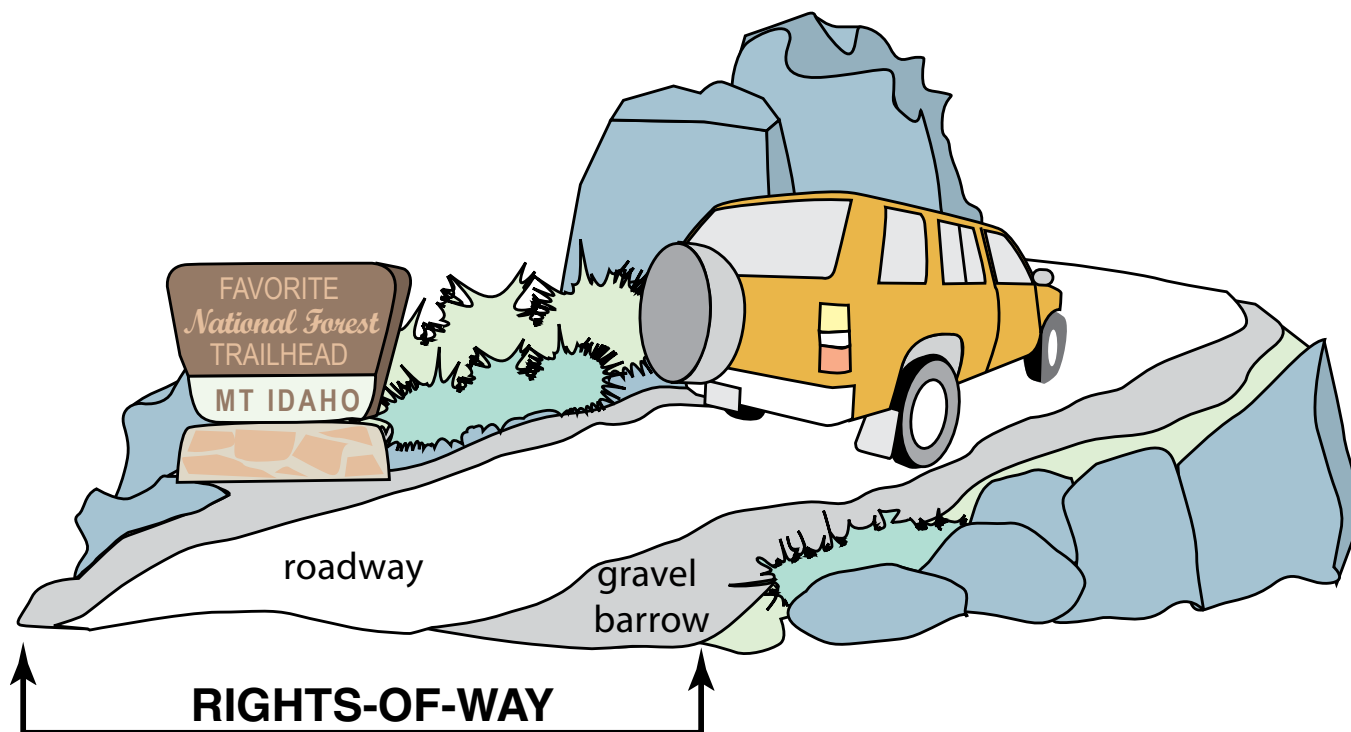


**[stayontrails.com](http://stayontrails.com) & [fishandgame.idaho.gov](http://fishandgame.idaho.gov)**

# Highway Right-of-Ways



**Highway rights-of-way:** the entire width between the boundary lines of every highway publicly maintained when any part is open to the use of the public for vehicular travel, the jurisdiction extending to the adjacent property line, including sidewalks, shoulders, berms and rights-of-ways not intended for motorized traffic. No person shall shoot from a public highway or discharge any firearm from or across a public highway.



## Special Vehicle Restrictions:

State and federal agencies and private landowners have established road closures in key big game areas to protect deer and elk populations. Please check with regional Idaho Fish and Game, Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management offices for information regarding vehicle restrictions on roads, trails, and unroaded areas.

# YOUTH HUNT INFORMATION

## FOR BIG GAME

### Youth Hunts

- Hunters must be 10 to 17 years of age to hunt big game in units designated for youth.
- Hunters must be 10 to 17 years of age to apply for a youth-only big game controlled hunt, except a 9-year old may apply for a controlled hunt, provided they are ten (10) years of age when they participate in the hunt for which they are applying. Hunters who apply for a youth only controlled hunt while 17 and turn 18 before the youth controlled hunt can still participate in the hunts designated for youth.

### Three-year Licenses

- If the youth becomes a resident of another state, this license remains valid but cannot be used to purchase resident tags.
- If the youth purchases the multi-year junior combination or hunting license while 17, he or she may continue to purchase the junior priced tags through the valid dates of the license. Youth hunt restrictions based on age still apply. A holder of a multi-year junior combination or hunting license over the age of 17 cannot participate in big game hunts designated for youth and cannot apply for youth only controlled hunts.

### Junior Licenses

Only properly licensed youth 10 or older may hunt big game, except a 9-year old may buy a license to apply for a controlled hunt provided they are ten (10) years of age when they participate in the hunt for which they are applying. They may apply if they are going to turn (10) during the controlled hunt period. They cannot participate until they are ten (10).

#### Resident

- All resident youth younger than 12, who possess a junior hunting license, must be accompanied by a licensed adult 18 years of age or older and be close enough to be within normal conversation or hearing range without shouting or the aid of electronic devices.
- All hunters possessing a Hunting Passport must be accompanied by a licensed adult 18 years of age or older and be close enough to be within normal conversation or hearing range without shouting or the aid of electronic devices.

#### Nonresident

- Nonresident youth ages 10 to 17, who possess a nonresident junior mentored hunting license, must be accompanied by a licensed adult 18 years of age or older and be close enough to be within normal conversation or hearing range without shouting or the aid of electronic devices. The licensed adult must have a current years tag which is valid for the same species. A tag that has already been filled still meets the tag possession requirement.
- Nonresident youth ages 10 to 17, who possess a full price hunting license are not required to follow the “accompanied by” rule in the field.

